

(1)

T H E
C A S E
Of the PEOPLE Call'd
Q U A K E R S,

*Humbly presented to the Parliament of Ireland,
Respecting the Sufferings they labour under, be-
cause for Conscience Sake they cannot Swear,
desiring to be Eas'd by a Solemn Affirmation.*

I. **W**HEREAS We are conscientiously perswaded, That we ought not to *Swear at all*, in obedience to the Precept of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, *Mat. 5. v. 34. to 38.* and his Apostle *James 5. v. 12.* Therefore it hath been our Declared Principle, to refuse Taking of an *Oath* in any Case.

II. The Law requiring an *Oath* in case of Evidence, which for the aforesaid Reasons We cannot take, We therefore have been and are Sufferers in divers Respects, which We have good Cause to hope, is not the Intention, either of the King, Government, or Parliament to continue Us under, they having tenderly allow'd Us Free Liberty to Perform Worship and Service unto ALMIGHTY GOD, in such Manner as we are perswaded, to be our Reasonable and Incumbent Duty, for which great Privilege and Favour, with many more enjoy'd by Us, under the King's mild Government, We are Humbly Thankful; from whence we take Encouragement to hope, there may be Relief granted to *Enable* Us, That Our Evidence may be taken, for the Securing of Our own Liberties and Properties, and to be helpful to others, who may stand in need thereof, against Designing and Unreasonable Men.

III. It hath been the Practice of some Litigious and Vexatious Persons to file Bills in *Chancery* against Us, or make Us Parties to Bills, wherein We are not concern'd, on purpose to stop due Course of Law, or
for

for some other Covetous End, because they know We cannot *Swear*, whereby not only Many of Us, have suffer'd great Damage, but Others also, by Reason of our not being qualify'd to Answer, either for Our Selves, or on their behalf.

IV. We are under the like Difficulty, with respect to Administrations, and Proving of Wills in the *Prerogative* and *Consistory* Courts, and often necessitated to make Settlements by Deeds, &c. which are not so Convenient for Us, as making of Wills wou'd be, if allow'd to prove them; in which Cases several Judges and Ministers of the Law, both in *Chancery* and the Courts aforesaid have been concern'd for Our Relief; which they found very Difficult, for want of a Legal Provision on our behalf, and have Encourag'd Us to seek for Remedy, when an Opportunity offer'd.

V. Wherefore for Relief in the aforesaid Matters, and others too tedious to mention, We humbly desire and request, you may please to grant us a *Solemn Affirmation* in like Terms of a Clause which it pleased the Parliament here in the Year 1709, in our Favour to Insert in a Bill against *Frauds* &c. Committed by Bankrupts. in the following Words, viz.

I A. B. do Sincerely and Truly Declare, That I will true Answer make to all such Questions as shall be demanded of Me in the present Case, and that I will speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth, according to the best of my Knowledge and Belief. And if any Person making such Declaration shall not declare the Truth, and being thereof Convicted, He or She shall be liable to such Penalties as Persons Convicted of Wilful Perjury are liable unto.

The said Bill came back from *England* Confirm'd, but for some Reason passed not into a Law here, tho' not in dislike of said Clause.

VI. An *Affirmation* without attesting the *Sacred Name* of GOD is granted to our Friends in *Rhode-Island*, and some other of the King's Plantations in *America*, as also the *Menists* in *Holland* for above One Hundred Years have enjoyed the like Privilege, and our Friends there are now favoured with the same without any Inconvenience to either Government, that we understand or have heard of.

VII. The Granting of which *Affirmation* we conceive with Submission will not leave any Person less Secure, we being liable to the Penalties of Perjury, and willing to Submit to such further Punishment as you in your Wisdom shall think fit, if we *Falsly Affirm*, being also firmly perswaded that we cannot Escape the Severity of Divine Justice for so doing, any more than those who *Swear Falsly*.

VIII. We also beg leave to add, that We have so great and awful a Reverence for the *Sacred Name* of ALMIGHTY GOD; that We are afraid to make use thereof in our Temporal Affairs. Altho' We firmly believe and freely acknowledge His Omnipresence and all other His Divine Attributes.

IX.



IX. We do not hereby seek to be qualified for Places of Honour or Profit, but to preserve our Liberties and Properties from being a *Prey* to evil minded Men, and better enabled to maintain our Families, pay our Rents and Taxes, Support our own Poor and relieve others, make Improvements, promote Manufactures, and the King's Revenue, and strengthen the *Protestant* Interest in this Kingdom, with greater Chearfulness.

X. Thus with *great Security* to others, we may be both Eased with respect to our *Consciencious Scruple*, and rendred *more generally* Useful to our Neighbours.

T H E

QUAKERS-CASE

Relating to an

AFFIRMATION.

